



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

★ District One
Michael D. Leita

★ District Two
Kevin J. Bouchey

★ District Three
J. Rand Elliott

January 19, 2010

Ted Sturdevant, Director
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Mr. Sturdevant:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Department of Ecology and other interested parties that the Yakima County Board of Commissioners intends to submit a request to identify and designate the lower Yakima Valley as a Ground Water Management Area as set forth in Chapter 173-100 WAC. This will allow the forging of a partnership between a diversity of local, state, tribal and federal interests to find and implement solutions to the problem of impaired groundwater quality in the lower valley. The Board also states its desire to act as Lead Agency for the Ground Water Management Area and will recommend that it be so appointed.

This request will be submitted as soon as all of the required steps set forth in WAC 173-100-050(4) have been completed. The Board believes that the majority of supporting information and documentation called for has already been compiled in the document Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Quality – Preliminary Assessment and Recommendations. As you know, this report was developed by a group consisting of representatives from local, state and federal agencies and the community, including the Board. As soon as we have held the public meeting required under WAC 173-100-050(4)(c), the Board will complete the request as called for in WAC 173-100-050(4)(a) and submit it to Ecology. Included will be the recommendation that the Board be appointed as the Lead Agency for the Lower Yakima Valley Ground Water Management Area.

Sincerely,

J. Rand Elliott, Commissioner
Board of Yakima County Commissioners

cc: Tom Tebb, DOE Yakima
Vern Redifer, Public Services Director